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RURAL DISTRICT OF
MARLBOROUGH & RAMSBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1957

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MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report for the year 1957 on the public health of the District.

The population of the District as estimated by the Registrar General was 10300 in 1957 ; and the excess of births (169) over deaths (106) was 63 which gives a rate for natural increase of 6.1 per 1000 population.

There were 169 (89 male and 80 female) births which gives a rate per 1000 population of 19.7 corrected for purposes of comparison. The birth rate for the administrative county during 1957 was 18.3 and that for England and Wales for the same period 16.1 respectively per 1000 population.

The death rate for the District based on 106 (49 male and 57 female) deaths corrected for comparability, was 10.2 per 1000 population. The England and Wales death rate was 11.5 and that for the administrative county 9.7 per 1000 population for the same period.

There were 45 deaths age 75 years and over, and 21 in the age group 65-74 years.

The death rate for infants under one year (infant mortality rate) was 41.4 per 1000 live births during 1957 based on the seven infant deaths under one year of age. The corresponding figures for the administrative county were 22.9 and for England and Wales 23.0 per 1000 live births.

The mean infant mortality rate during the period 1948 to 1957 was 24.9 per 1000 live births, based on averages over the ten year period of 176.6 live births and 4.4 infant deaths under one year of age.

Among the death rates for special causes ; bronchitis, pneumonia and influenza with 7 deaths gave a rate of 0.7 per 1000 population ; cancer 17 deaths gave a rate of 1.7 per 1000 population ; cerebral haemorrhage with 14 deaths represents a rate of 1.4 per 1000 population, coronary disease 1.6 (16 deaths) and 26 other heart and circulatory diseases 2.5 per 1000 population.

There was one death from tuberculosis, and three due to road accidents. The seven deaths under one year of age resulted from prematurity (4), congenital abnormality one, brain haemorrhage one, and meningitis due to *B. coli* one.

Infective disease notifications numbered 418 during 1957 including six in respect of respiratory tuberculosis ; 324 were notified as measles, 61 as whooping cough, and 11 as influenzal pneumonia, in addition to 9 for uncomplicated pneumonia. Scarlet fever, dysentery, and food poisoning notifications were low during the year. The greatest incidence was in 5-10 year old group, and in the months of June and July.

The *incidence rates* of notifiable diseases in the Rural District during 1957 per 1000 population were measles 31.5 ; whooping cough 5.9 ; pneumonia including influenza 1.9 ; scarlet fever 0.2 ; and dysentery and food poisoning 0.1.

Diphtheria immunization figures for 1957 show that 144 children under 15 years of age were inoculated primarily. Of this number 105 were immunized under one year old. In addition 129 children under 15 years old were inoculated against whooping cough, 108 of whom were under one year of age. In addition, a considerable number of children and some mothers were inoculated against poliomyelitis, which began late in 1956 and was continued during 1957. The precise numbers are included in the County aggregate which have not yet become available for individual Districts.

One hundred vaccinations against smallpox were carried out, below one year of age.

There were 169 live births in the Rural District during 1957.

Other relevant data are to be found in the body of this report which is followed by the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, My Lord,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RODERICK MACKAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

7th May, 1958.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	K. F. HUDSON, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector	D. E. ROSS, M.A.P.H.I.
Rodent Officer/Operator	M. W. WELCH
Clerk	MISS R. DOUGLAS

The Medical Officer of Health acts also in that capacity for the other three constituent authorities of the East Wilts Combined Districts viz., Amesbury R.D., Pewsey R.D., and Marlborough M.B., and is responsible for the public health duties imposed by statute upon his office. He holds, in addition, the appointment of assistant County Medical Officer and in this respect carries out on behalf of the County Council, duties in connection with the welfare services for which it is mainly responsible.

The Public Health Inspector carries out within the District, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, with whose duties those of the Public Health Inspector are complementary, the statutory duties which are placed upon the authority generally in connection with the public health.

The duties of the Public Health Inspector and Medical Officer of Health are satisfactorily integrated.

Matters of Public Health are normally dealt with by the General Purposes Committee and the Housing Committee of the District Council.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	....	94000
Number of Parishes	....	....	....	....	....	25
Population mid-1957 as estimated by the Registrar						
General	....	....	....	....		10300
Number of inhabited houses	....	....	....	....		3193
Number of new houses erected in 1957 :—						
By Private Enterprise	....	....				23
By Local Authority	....	....	....	....		23
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	£82357
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (estimated)	....					£345

VITAL STATISTICS

				M.	F.	Total
Live Births	....	....	....	89	80	169
	Legitimate	....	....	85	77	162
	Illegitimate	....	....	4	3	7
Still Births	....	....	....	—	2	2
	Legitimate	....	....	—	2	2
	Illegitimate	....	....	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate	....	....	....			19.7
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales						16.1
Number of Deaths from all causes	....			49	57	106
Death Rate	....	....	....			10.2
Death Rate for England and Wales	....					11.5
Deaths of Infants under one year :—						
	Total	....	....	3	4	7
	Legitimate	....	....	3	4	7
	Illegitimate	....	....	—	—	—
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births						41.4
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales						23.0

NOTE :—

(1) The number of births, still-births and deaths are those registered during 1957 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

(2) The infant mortality rate noted above is based on seven deaths.

BIRTH RATE, INFANT DEATH RATE, TOTAL DEATH RATE, 1957

	<i>Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D.</i>	<i>Administrative County</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate (per 1000 popn.)	.... 19.7	18.3	16.1
Death Rate (per 1000 popn.)	.... 10.2	21.3	11.5
Death Rate of Infants under year (per 1000 live births)	.... 41.4	9.7	23.0

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT, 1948-57

Year	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Population										
Live Births	9926 204 20.6	10028 194 19.3	10050 171 17.0	10990 172 15.7	9940 180 18.1	11060 170 15.4	10340 172 16.6	10330 163 15.8	10450 171 16.4	10300 169 16.4
Still Births	2 9.7	0 0.0	2 11.6	1 5.8	3 16.6	4 22.9	1 5.8	4 23.9	2 11.6	2 11.7
Total Deaths	118 11.9	132 13.2	125 12.4	133 12.1	114 11.5	105 9.5	104 10.1	120 11.6	107 10.2	106 10.3
Infant Deaths	8 39.2	7 36.1	3 17.6	3 17.4	2 11.1	6 35.3	1 5.8	3 18.4	4 23.4	7 41.4
Tuberculosis Deaths	3 0.3	5 0.5	2 0.2	2 0.2	3 0.3	1 0.1	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	1 0.1
Cancer Deaths	19 1.9	15 1.5	22 2.2	23 2.1	14 1.4	12 1.1	14 1.4	19 1.8	15 1.4	17 1.7
Pneumonia Deaths	5 0.5	12 1.2	8 0.8	10 0.9	8 0.8	8 0.7	3 0.3	4 0.4	4 0.4	3 0.3

N.B. The corresponding rate is given underlined together with the figure on which it is based. With the exception of the infant death rate which is calculated per 1000 live births, and the still birth rate per 1000 total births, the rates given above are computed per 1000 of the population. The birth and death rates are not corrected in this table for area comparability.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of infectious disease notifications was 418. The diseases showing the greatest incidence were measles 324; whooping cough 61, and pneumonia including influenzal pneumonia 20.

The months of greatest incidence were June and July. No cases of poliomyelitis were notified in the Rural District in 1957.

A small outbreak of infective hepatitis occurred at Chilton Foliat early in the year, involving five school children. This may well have been connected with the much larger outbreak in Marlborough at the beginning of the year, although exhaustive enquiries failed to find the link; nor could any connection be traced between these two outbreaks and the one which followed at the end of the year at Manton School, Marlborough.

TUBERCULOSIS

Seven cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year in the Rural District; six in respect of the respiratory form of the disease.

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations against diphtheria, whooping cough, and poliomyelitis are carried out at welfare clinics and at special sessions under the direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County medical staff, and by general medical practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox. 144 primary inoculations were made against diphtheria in 1957, of which 105 were under one year of age. There were also 108 inoculations during the year against whooping cough, all under one year of age.

The following numbers were primarily immunized against diphtheria during the last ten years:—

<i>Age Group</i> (Years)		<i>Years</i>									
	1948	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	'54	'55	'56	'57	Total
Under 5	149	77	94	65	142	114	115	133	143	124	1156
5-15	74	53	3	25	24	13	9	26	16	20	263
Total	223	130	97	90	166	127	124	159	159	144	1419

One hundred infants (under one year) out of 169 live births were primarily vaccinated in the Rural District in 1957.

WATER SUPPLY

The existing supplies as detailed in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector are all chlorinated; and, it will be noted, improvements are being carried out in the shape of extensions, and also increasing connections to the main.

SEWERAGE

In addition to the sewerage systems at Ramsbury and now at Aldbourne (both discharging into the Ramsbury works) consideration is now being given to the provision of sewerage at Great Bedwyn, where the need for it can be fully supported on public health grounds.

FOOD SUPERVISION

The standard of food hygiene may be said to have been generally satisfactory in the Rural District during the year, although some infection of milk by *Brucella abortus* was encountered, and satisfactorily dealt with by pasteurization and such other measures as were possible by the farmer on veterinary advice (segregation of animals and vaccination where this was likely to be effective).

It is probable that infection in man by this organism is commoner than is generally anticipated ; but increased pasteurization of milk would do much to lessen the incidence, for any raw milk no matter what its qualities may be in other directions is relatively less safe from the point of view of infection by any organism than heat-treated milk.

Although this infection is commonly found in man among those in close contact with animals, it is also transmissible by milk.

Thirteen persons in the Rural District were reported as suffering from brucellosis (with positive laboratory confirmatory tests) all in the same series in one locality. All milk submitted for laboratory investigation is also subjected to a presumptive test for infection by *Brucella abortus*.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1957

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food poisoning	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	1	7	19	120	136	37	—	3	1	—	324
Pneumonia	—	3	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	9
Influenzal pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	11
Peurperal pyrexia	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet fever	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping cough	11	10	10	16	3	2	3	—	—	—	6	—	61
Pulmonary tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	6
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	12	16	13	26	23	124	141	37	1	17	8	—	418

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1957

Disease	Total	Age (years)												
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Food poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Measles.....	324	3	19	29	31	28	175	36	1	2	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	9	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	
Influenzal pneumonia	11	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	2	3	
Peurperal pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	
Scarlet fever	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping cough	61	3	2	6	5	7	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals	411	8	23	35	38	36	214	37	2	7	1	4	6	

CAUSES OF DEATH

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN, 1957

					M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	....	....	—	1	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	....	....	....	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	....	....	....	1	—	1
4	Diphtheria	....	....	....	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	....	....	....	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	....	....	....	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	....	....	....	—	—	—
8	Measles	....	....	....	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic disease	....			1	1	2
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	....	....		—	1	1
11	„ „ lung-bronchus	....			6	—	6
12	„ „ breast	....	....		—	1	1
13	„ „ uterus	....	....		—	2	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				2	5	7
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	....		—	—	—
16	Diabetes	....	....		—	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	....			8	6	14
18	Coronary disease, angina	....	....		7	9	16
19	Hypertension with heart disease	....	....		—	—	—
20	Other heart disease	....	....		9	13	22
21	Other circulatory disease	....	....		2	2	4
22	Influenza	....	....		—	2	2
23	Pneumonia	....	....		2	1	3
24	Bronchitis	....	....		1	1	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	....			1	—	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	....		1	—	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....	....		—	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....		—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....		1	—	1
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	....		—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	....	....		—	3	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....			4	8	12
33	Motor vehicle accidents	....	....		2	1	3
34	All other accidents	....	....		—	—	—
35	Suicide	....	....		1	—	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	....	....		—	—	—
Total of all causes					49	57	106

MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1957

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the activities of the Public Health Department during 1957.

Once again, I take this opportunity of thanking my staff for their assistance without which, the work would not have progressed in such a satisfactory manner.

I should also like to record my appreciation of the co-operation and help received from Doctor Mackay, Mr. A. G. Hunt and all the other members of the Council's staff.

*I am, Mr. Chairman, My Lord,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Your obedient servant,

KENNETH F. HUDSON.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Over the past year houses have been erected in the following parishes.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Private Houses</i>	<i>Council Houses</i>
Aldbourne	5	—
Avebury	—	5
Broad Hinton	4	—
Chilton Foliat	3	—
Froxfield	3	—
Fyfield	2	—
Ramsbury	3	18
West Overton	2	—
Winterbourne Monkton	1	—
Totals	23	23

The number of Council houses erected and completed was 50% higher than the previous year, and were again built in the same two parishes. In September, as the result of the Bank Rate increase the Council decided to suspend the building of further houses until there was a decrease in the Rate. When rebuilding starts, emphasis will be on houses for replacement of properties condemned under the Slum Clearance programme.

The number of private houses completed was over double the figure for the year before. Most of them were for owner-occupation. In these cases the houses were sited in various parts of the district.

The number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses is 140 and of this number the majority are already housed. The number of families without a separate home is small. The larger percentage of applicants wish to move from a house without modern amenities or to change their occupation.

SLUM CLEARANCE

The following table gives the position of the Council's Slum Clearance Programme at the end of the year.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>No. Dealt With</i>	<i>No. of Demolition Orders</i>	<i>Houses Demolished</i>	<i>Houses used for other Purposes</i>	<i>Houses Made Fit</i>
Aldbourne	1	1	—	1	—	—
Avebury	11	11	8	8	2	1
Baydon	3	1	—	—	1	—
Berwick Bassett	1	1	1	1	—	—
Buttermere	1	1	1	1	—	—
Chilton Foliat	7	7	7	—	—	—
Froxfield	3	2	1	—	—	1
Grafton	10	8	—	8	—	—
Great Bedwyn	7	5	—	—	—	5
Little Bedwyn	3	3	—	—	2	1
Mildenhall	3	2	—	2	—	—
Ogbourne						
St. Andrew	9	9	6	—	3	—
Ogbourne						
St. George	12	10	10	—	—	—
Preshute	6	5	2	2	1	—
Ramsbury	14	11	8	5	—	3
Shalbourne	4	4	—	—	1	3
West Overton	1	1	1	1	—	—
Winterbourne						
Bassett	5	5	5	—	—	—
Winterbourne						
Monkton	5	5	5	—	—	—
Totals	106	92	55	29	10	14

It will be observed that 92 houses have been dealt with so far out of a total of 106 in Category 'E'. The column "houses demolished" includes not only those demolished as a result of a Demolition Order but also those voluntarily demolished by owners without waiting for formal procedure. The "houses used for other purposes" are all cottages which are no longer available for letting but have been put to other purposes, chiefly agricultural stores.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the first part of the year continuous progress was made in the use of Improvement Grants for the modernising of cottages and to bring them up to a reasonable standard. In September, however, due to the rise in the Bank Rate, the Council decided to stop, for the time being, giving any Improvement Grants. It was stated that, as soon as conditions permit, this service would re-commence.

There is no doubt that the Grant enables owners to tackle the problem of modernising in an efficient and workmanlike manner. The results obtained are very gratifying and I trust the temporary cessation will be short.

The following table shows the parishes where Grants were given.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>
Aldbourne	7
Avebury	7
Baydon	1
Berwick Bassett	1
Broad Hinton	1
East Kennett	1
Grafton	1
Great Bedwyn	1
Mildenhall	4
Ogbourne St. Andrew	1
Preshute	2
Ramsbury	1
Shalbourne	8
Tidcombe and Fosbury	8
West Overton	2
Total	46

HOUSING SURVEY

The Survey has been completed and 2,703 houses were inspected.

<i>Parish</i>	'A'	'B'	'C'	'E'	Total
Aldbourne	90	88	117	1	296
Avebury	12	59	51	11	133
Baydon	28	19	17	3	67
Berwick Bassett	2	5	8	1	16
Broad Hinton	30	41	28	—	99
Buttermere	—	12	7	1	20
Chilton Foliat	27	17	53	7	104
East Kennett	1	4	11	—	16
Froxfield	3	19	42	3	67
Fyfield	4	21	15	—	40
Grafton	35	52	68	10	165
Great Bedwyn	58	89	120	7	274
Ham	17	25	7	—	49
Little Bedwyn	19	30	55	3	107
Mildenhall	14	44	47	3	108
Ogbourne St. Andrew	10	43	35	9	97
Ogbourne St. George	46	35	33	12	126
Preshute	8	30	17	6	61
Ramsbury	125	77	147	14	363
Savernake	6	29	17	—	52
Shalbourne	25	83	60	4	172
Tidcombe and Fosbury	2	17	15	—	34
West Overton	36	48	56	1	141
Winterbourne Bassett	17	5	23	5	50
Winterbourne Monkton	5	12	24	5	46
Totals	620	904	1073	106	2703
Percentages	23%	33%	40%	4%	100%

It can be seen from this table that a total of 1,524 houses (i.e. 56%) are completely fit or fit in most respects which is a satisfactory picture. Of the 1,073 houses in Category C a good deal is being done to improve matters, much with the assistance of Improvement Grants.

In addition to the condition of the properties generally, the following interesting facts have been obtained.

(i)	No. of cases of statutory overcrowding	....	....	15
(ii)	No. of houses still supplied with water from wells	....		446
(iii)	No. of houses with no water supply	....	....	117
(iv)	No. of houses with main drainage	....	368	
	septic tank drainage		999	
			—	1367

(v)	No. of houses without a sink	....	....	705
(vi)	No. of houses with a fixed bath	....	....	1362
(vii)	No. of houses supplied with electricity	....	....	2298

The provision of a sewerage scheme to one of the largest villages will greatly improve the drainage position. At the same time, the extension of one of the existing main water supplies to cover a much wider area will materially assist in supplying cottages with wholesome water where an unsatisfactory supply exists at present.

WATER SUPPLIES

There are six piped Public Water Supplies in the district.

AVEBURY SUPPLY

The scheme supplies water to the parishes of Preshute, Fyfield, West Overton, East Kennett, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton, Berwick Bassett, Winterbourne Bassett and Broad Hinton. The pumping station is situated at Clatford and pumps the water from the lower chalk 150 feet deep to a reservoir on Totterdown. There is also a balancing tank erected at Broad Hinton. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station. The number of properties connected to the main continues to increase.

BAYDON SUPPLY

This supplies the parish of Baydon and the water is obtained in bulk from the Hungerford Rural District Council. Practically the whole of the parish is connected to the mains. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station.

BEDWYN SUPPLY

In October two new boreholes were brought into operation and the existing borehole was sealed off. The new boreholes are adjacent to the existing pumphouse and this building houses the necessary equipment. The water is pumped from the lower chalk to an existing reservoir at Chisbury and will be pumped to a new reservoir being constructed on high ground to the south east of Harding Farm, Shalbourne. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station.

The existing reservoir supplies water to Great Bedwyn, part of Little Bedwyn and St. Katharine's in Pewsey Rural District. The new reservoir will supply water to Shalbourne, Ham and Grafton. This work is in hand and good progress is being made.

OGBOURNE SUPPLY

The water from this supply is purchased in bulk from the Swindon Corporation from their pumping station at Whitefield, Ogbourne St. George. The water is boosted to a reservoir on the downs and gravitates to the two parishes of Ogbourne St. Andrew and Ogbourne St.

George and to the military camp. The majority of the properties in both parishes are connected to the mains. The water is chlorinated at Whitefields.

RAMSBURY SUPPLY

This scheme supplies water to the parishes of Aldbourne, Chilton Foliat, Froxfield, Mildenhall and Ramsbury. The water is pumped from the greensand at Ramsbury to a reservoir north of the village and is chlorinated at the pumping station.

SAVERNAKE SUPPLY

The water for this supply is purchased in bulk from the Borough of Marlborough. The main runs from the top of Postern Hill through the front of Savernake Forest to Iron Gates and supplies Savernake Hospital, two farms and several cottages. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station.

Samples for chemical and bacteriological examinations were taken at various points on the mains during the year and the results were as follows :—

<i>Supply</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>No. of Samples Satis- factory</i>	<i>No. of Samples Slightly Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>No. of Samples Not Satis- factory</i>
Avebury	14	14	—	—
Baydon	13	13	—	—
Bedwyn	10	10	—	—
Ogbourne	14	14	—	—
Ramsbury	15	15	—	—
Savernake	12	12	—	—
Totals	78	78	—	—

As will be seen from the table no bad samples were obtained during the year and this is a gratifying position.

The water in this area is all from chalk or greensand so there is no risk of plumbo-solvent action.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Aldbourne section of the Ramsbury Sewerage scheme came into operation during August. The sewage for the village gravitates to Whittonditch where it is pumped to the joint treatment works. Already a good proportion of the dwellings in Aldbourne are connected

to the sewer. The work not only includes the connection but in many cases the provision of a bathroom and water closet. Before the scheme the large majority of dwellings had only pail closets.

Ramsbury is the only other village with a sewerage scheme and this has been working for 7 years. A further small number of connections were made.

The Council have given instructions for a scheme to be prepared for Great Bedwyn. At present there is a sullage water system which is ancient and defective. It was originally installed for surface water but over the years has been used as a sink drainage system.

There is steady progress in the district as a whole to provide water carriage systems to dwelling houses. This applies to all types and sizes of houses.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Household refuse is collected fortnightly from all the parishes with the exception of a few isolated premises. It is taken to two refuse tips, one at Knowle and the other at Bridge Farm. While every endeavour is made to cover the refuse in a proper manner, difficulties are found in obtaining sufficient covering material. The maximum use is made of the ashes in the refuse for this purpose.

A Dennis 18 cubic yard Paxit Refuse Collector is used for the collection and this has been found to be very suitable in a Rural District where the length of haul is considerable. The vehicle is staffed by a driver and three men.

SALVAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of salvage takes place at the same time as the household refuse. A rack on top of the vehicle is used for this purpose.

The weight of paper collected and baled was one and a half tons greater than the year before and the largest ever obtained. It would appear that it is practically the maximum that can be collected and dealt with by the existing staff. This achievement reflects great credit not only to the men but to the householders who have helped in saving and making available this waste paper. The quantity of rags has increased and there is a small but none the less significant sale of rags to private collectors in parts of the district. As stated in my last report, a start was made on sorting out the large tins and iron containers for sale. During the year this amounted to over nineteen tons and is a worthwhile contribution to salvage. The removal of these large metal containers of one sort and another assists in consolidating the tip and therefore prevents settlement.

The following table shows the quantity of salvage collected and the price received for the years 1956 and 1957.

	1956							1957						
	<i>Weight</i>				<i>Value</i>			<i>Weight</i>				<i>Value</i>		
	T.	C.	Q.	LB	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q.	LB	£	s.	d.
Paper	85	1	0	0	637	14	4	86	19	2	0	642	8	8
Rags		16	1	13	17	14	3	1	2	1	1	22	5	2
Scrap Iron	12	10	0	24	52	10	3	19	5	1	0	77	1	0
Totals	98	7	2	9	707	18	10	107	7	0	1	741	14	10

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

A systematic inspection of properties both business and private was continued and although the number of premises infested with rats was higher than the year previously, the degree of infestation was in no case very large. The only bait used was Warfarin and medium oatmeal and I am sure that this contributed to the success achieved in this connection.

The following table gives a guide to the visits made during 1957.

	<i>Local Author- ities</i>	<i>Private Prop- er- ties</i>	<i>Farms</i>	<i>Business Prop- er- ties</i>	<i>Total</i>
No of Inspections Made	83	1512	234	168	1997
No of Properties Inspected	17	1206	187	124	1534
No of Properties Infested by Rats	8	208	27	26	269
No .of Properties Infested by Mice	—	14	—	3	17
No. of Treatments Carried Out	38	222	21	20	301
Total No. of Visits made under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949					3201

FACTORIES ACT

Periodical inspections are made to various factories within the district and generally speaking these are kept in conformity with the Factories Act.

There are no large factories in the area, the majority being small garages, bakehouses, etc.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are three licensed sites in the district for the use of carvans.

The two at Avebury and Lockeridge are generally full with regular dwellers, while the one at Cadley is used principally by passing visitors. The general condition in these sites is good.

Apart from these sites there are 13 individual caravans licensed for 12 months.

FOOD

FOOD PREMISES

The following table shows the number and type of food premises in the district.

Type of Business	Category			Total
	A	B	C	
Bakehouses	1	6	2	9
Butchers	—	4	2	6
Cafes	1	4	1	6
Caterers (Licenced)	3	1	1	5
Confectioners	4	4	—	8
Greengrocers	1	—	—	1
Greengrocer and Fishmonger	—	1	1	2
Grocers	6	30	3	39
Public Houses	16	10	2	28
Others	1	1	—	2
Total	33	61	12	106

REGISTERED PREMISES

No. of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the sale of ice-cream..... 30
 These are all registered for the retail of prepacked ice-cream only.

No. of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of preserved foods..... 7
 All the premises are manufacturing sausages.

No. of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairy Regulations 1949/54.....	8
No. of distributors registered under the Milk and Dairy Regulations 1949/54	5
Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.....	11
Dealers Licences for Pasteurised Milk.....	10
Dealer's Licences for Sterilised Milk.....	3
Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.....	6
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk.....	6
Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk.....	1

INSPECTION OF PREMISES

No. of inspections—110.

During the year the condition of premises continued to improve and further improvement is anticipated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle excl. Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
No. killed	—	—	—	1	12
No. inspected	—	—	—	1	12
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B. AND CYSTERCERCI					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Per cent of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. or Cystercerci	—	—	—	—	8.33
Per cent of number inspected affected with T.B. only	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Per cent of number inspected affected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	—
Per cent of number inspected affected with Cystercerci	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

MEAT INSPECTION

The two slaughterhouses in this district at Aldbourne and Great Bedwyn continued to operate but the amount of slaughtering carried out has been very small.

It has now become standard practice for meat for this district to be obtained from the abattoir at Swindon.

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Condemned meat is collected by a private firm for manufacture into soap, etc.

MILK SAMPLING

During the year this district was included in a " Specified Area ", so that all milk sold is now either designated raw milk or pasteurised.

The following table shows the number of routine milk samples taken during the year.

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	
	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Biological</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Biological</i>
Designated Raw	53	106	7	8
Pasteurised	70	20	—	—
Total	123	126	7	8

Investigation of those samples failing the standard test showed the failure to be due to inefficient sterilising of machinery in all cases.

No tuberculosis was discovered during the year. The eight samples failing the biological test were due to *Brucella abortus*. These samples were derived from four herds, each supplying T.T. Raw milk for consumption in this area. In addition to the routine samples noted above a further 147 samples were taken in order to trace the infected cows in these herds. In each case the infected animals were segregated from the herd and their milk was sent for heat treatment. It is of interest to note that all the cows found to be supplying infected milk were good milkers ; there was no recent history of abortion in the herds and all the animals concerned had been vaccinated with S.19 Vaccine under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food scheme.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR 1957

Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	22
Butchers' Shops	....	....	....	....	....	13
Council House Enquiries	....	....	....	....	....	31
Disease of Animals (Waste Foods) Order 1957						4
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	389
Factories	....	....	....	....	....	14
Food Premises	....	....	....	....	....	110
Housing and Housing Improvement Grants	....					804
Housing Survey	....	....	....	....	....	508
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	60
Milk Samples	....	....	....	....	....	246
Milk and Dairies	....	....	....	....	....	34
New Buildings	....	....	....	....	....	86
Nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	32
Petroleum	....	....	....	....	....	14
Rats and Mice—Inspections and Treatments						2,249
Refuse Collection	....	....	....	....	....	77
Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	....	....	10
Tents, Vans and Sheds	....	....	....	....	....	5
Town Planning	....	....	....	....	....	65
Water Supply	....	....	....	....	....	13
Water Samples	....	....	....	....	....	99
Unclassified	....	....	....	....	....	244
Total						<hr/> 5,129 <hr/>

E. H. Perkins and Son, Ltd., Marlborough
